

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150809

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, UNGA

SUBJECT: PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS

1. FOR NATO: DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL
TO HAVE PRE-UNGA CONSULTATION AT NATO ON UN MATTERS
AS HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE IN PAST YEARS. AT THE SAME
TIME, WE ARE MINDFUL OF THE CONTRETEMPS WHICH DEVELOPED
WITH THE FRENCH LAST YEAR WHEN WE PROPOSED A NAC
SESSION ON UN MATTERS WITH ATTENDANCE BY GOVERNOR SCRANTON;
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THIS CONSULTATION WAS EVENTUALLY CANCELLED DUE TO
FRENCH RESISTANCE. ALTHOUGH FRENCH ATTITUDE TO NAC
CONSULTATIONS WITH OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS SEEMS TO HAVE
MODERATED SOMEWHAT DURING PAST YEAR, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD
PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY FOR
UN CONSULTATION. FRENCH MIGHT FEEL COMPELLED, IN VIEW
OF EPISODE LAST YEAR, TO TAKE FIRM POSITION ON THIS

PARTICULAR SUBJECT.

2. IN VIEW OF YOUR EXPERTISE IN UN MATTERS, YOU COULD OBVIOUSLY HANDLE NAC CONSULTATION FOR US. HOWEVER, OTHER PERMREPS DO NOT HAVE SIMILAR UN BACKGROUND, AND WHILE THEY COULD PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL NAC DISCUSSION ON BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS, VALUE OF CONSULTATION WOULD NOT BE AS GREAT AS IT WOULD BE IF

EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS WERE TO PARTICIPATE. ALSO, OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS BELGIUM, WHICH STRONGLY FAVORED NAC CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNOR SCRANTON AND OTHER OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS LAST YEAR, MIGHT WANT TO SEND SUCH OFFICIALS, WHETHER OR NOT THE US INTENDED TO DO SO.

3. AS A FIRST STEP YOU SHOULD RAISE THIS MATTER PRIVATELY WITH LUNS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A PRE-UNGA COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON UN MATTERS, PERHAPS IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER, BUT DO NOT WISH TO SEE THE QUESTION OF SUCH A CONSULTATION DEVELOP INTO A CONFRONTATION WITH THE FRENCH. WE EXPECT COORDINATION OF POSITIONS AT THE FORTHCOMING GA TO BE OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE ALLIES, INVOLVING QUESTIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, NORTH/SOUTH
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ECONOMIC ISSUES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS CONTROL. AN INSTRUCTED COUNCIL SESSION ON UN MATTERS MIGHT BE A WAY OF GETTING AROUND FRENCH SENSIBILITIES WHILE HAVING A CONSULTATION ON A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE TO THE ALLIANCE. THE US COULD BE REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR BENNETT. HOWEVER, WE COULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER ALLIES MIGHT WISH TO HAVE EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS PARTICIPATE, AND THAT THIS, AS WELL AS THE SUBJECT OF THE CONSULTATIONS, COULD GIVE RISE TO FRENCH OBJECTIONS. IF IT SHOULD DEVELOP THAT THE FRENCH WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO A COUNCIL SESSION ON THE UN WITH EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS, WE COULD SEND SUCH AN EXPERT WHO WOULD BE AT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE LUNS VIEWS ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED ON THIS MATTER. IF HE THINKS IT ADVISABLE, PERHAPS HE COULD RAISE THE MATTER PRIVATELY WITH TINE AND/OR AT A PERMREPS LUNCH.

4. FOR BRUSSELS: YOU SHOULD APPROACH BELGIANS ON INFORMAL BASIS TO SEEK DATE IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR CONSULTATIONS ON UN WITH BELGIUM IN ITS ROLE OF EC PRESIDENCY, AND ALSO WITH COMMUNITY

STAFF AS LAST YEAR. WOULD EXPECT TO COVER FULL RANGE OF KEY ISSUES AND TO EXCHANGE SUGGESTED SUBJECT LISTS NEAR AGREED TIME OF CONSULTATIONS.

5. FOR BONN: DISCUSSIONS HELD HERE ON UN ISSUES WITH REDIES ON JUNE 20 REPORTED SEPTTEL. IN ADDITION, AMBASSADOR YOUNG WILL BE VISITING BONN (SEE SEPTTEL). WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS AS TO DESIRABILITY OF FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AND, IF SO, SUITABILITY OF EARLY SEPTEMBER. VANCE

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